

VIA ELECTRONIC FILING

Marlene H. Dortch
Secretary
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, S.W.
Washington, DC 20554

Re: Applications of T-Mobile US, Inc. and Sprint Corporation, WT Docket No. 18-197

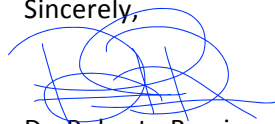
Dear Ms. Dortch,

Attached, please find a copy of a letter to the editor I recently wrote and submitted for publication. I believe this piece provides a solid explanation as to the reasons why I support the merger of T-Mobile and Sprint—it will be good for the communities in Central Florida that I work with on a daily basis.

Providing those who live in minority communities with high-speed internet is necessary to close the digital divide, and is critical to the futures of those who live and work in these communities. I urge you to support this merger and I look forward to what the new T-Mobile can bring to underserved communities in Central Florida.

Please feel free to contact me with any questions.

Sincerely,



Dr. Roberto Ramirez
INTELLITEC, Consultant on Health & Federal Affairs

Attachment

cc: (via email)

Chairman Ajit Pai
Commissioner Michael O’Rielly
Commissioner Brendan Carr
Commissioner Jessica Rosenworcel

To the Editor:

As a family doctor, I spend significant time every day working with people from a wide range of backgrounds, education levels, and health conditions. What has changed over the years—and will continue to change in the future—is how we access information.

There is a considerable gap in internet access in underserved areas and in communities of color. This digital divide has persisted for years, but the increasing reliability of wireless has started to change this.

There is an opportunity to change it further still through the merger of T-Mobile and Sprint. This is because the merger of these two companies provides us with the best potential the country has for getting to a 5G network in the shortest amount of time.

What does this mean for minority communities? It means that their mobile phones, which for many provide the only access to the internet they have, will be able to handle much more. Increased speeds on a 5G network mean that handheld devices will be as fast and as reliable as an in-home broadband connection, a goal that has been difficult to achieve but is critically important.

T-Mobile has a long history of supporting minorities as an employer—they have an in-company Multicultural Network that works to improve the lives of their employees. The move to advance a nationwide 5G network will support minority communities in a different but impactful way.

Sincerely,

Dr. Roberto Ramirez